**Adjective Agreement**

A noun, as you know, represents a person, place or thing (eg. *student, city, scarf*). Nouns in French belong to two categories. Every noun in French is either *masculine* or *feminine*. These categories do not equal *male* or *female*. Though male people are generally in the masculine category and female people are generally in the feminine category, objects and places are neither "male" nor "female". As a matter of fact the word for *mustache* in French is *moustache* and it is a feminine word, though we would normally think of a mustache as something that characterizes a man. How do you know then if a word is masculine or feminine in French? You simply have to memorize this.

Every word associated with a noun will have a masculine form and a feminine form.

the book = *le* livre (masculine word)

the sash = *la* ceinture (feminine word)

the books = *les* livres

the sashes = *les* ceintures

Notice that the word *the* in front of a masculine word is ***le*** and in front of a feminine word is ***la***. Nouns in French, like in English, can also be singular or plural; therefore any word associated with a noun will also have a masculine plural form and a feminine plural form. Notice that the word for *the* in front of plural words is ***les***.

Other words associated with nouns in English are the words *a*, *an*, and *some*. In French the word for *a* is either ***un*** or ***une***, depending on if the word is masculine or feminine, and the word for *some* is **des**.

a book = *un* livre (masculine word)

a sash = *une* ceinture (feminine word)

some books = *des* livres

some sashes = *des* ceintures

Colours are descriptive words (adjectives) that are also associated with nouns they will have masculine and feminine singular forms, and masculine and feminine plural forms. See the changes to the word **noir** (black) in the examples below:

E.g. Le pull est **noir** (The pullover is black). Les pulls sont **noirs** (The pullovers are black).

La blouse est **noire**. (The blouse is black). Les blouses sont **noires** (The blouses are black).

Here are the different forms for noir:

Masculine singular = **noir**

Feminine singular = **noire** (add an **e** for the feminine form)

Masculine plural = **noirs** (add an **s** to make it plural)

Feminine plural = **noires** (add an **s** to the feminine form to make it plural)

For the colours most of the feminine forms are formed by simply adding an **e** at the end of the word if the word ends with a consonant. (The words for white and purple in French vary slightly from this rule. See the other PDF file that I sent you with all the explanations about the Quebec Winter Carnival.) To form the plurals you simply add an **s** at the end of the masculine or feminine forms. However, if a colour already ends with an **e** you don't need to add another **e** for the feminine form:

e.g. une ceinture **jaune** (the word **jaune** here is the same as the masculine form **jaune** since the word already ends in an **e**).

In the same way, if a colour ends with an **s**, you don't need to add another s to make it plural:

e.g. un pull **gris**…des pulls **gris** (the word **gris** here is the same for both the singular and plural forms since the word **gris** already ends with an **s**)

There is a chart provided for you in the other PDF file I sent you that shows you all the different forms for the colours.

One other thing to note about the colours in French is that they appear after the noun that they describe and not before as they do in English.

e.g. In English we say **"a green tuque"** but in French they say **"une tuque verte"**

**Expressing preferences**

In this activity use the verbs "aimer" and "préférer", which are in the list of ER verbs that I sent you last week.

To say you like something you would say **"J'aime…"** and fill in the blank with something you like. To say you prefer something you would say **"Je préfère…"** and follow that with something you prefer. (Notice how the second accent in the word changes directions.) To say that you do not like something you need to put the verb "aimer" in the negative form.

To make a verb negative in French simply put the word **"ne"** before the verb and the word **"pas"** after the verb.

e.g. Je **n'**aime **pas** (the **e** in **ne** drops before a vowel)

Je **ne** préfère **pas**

Here are some examples using the verb "aimer":

J'aime la pizza. = I like pizza

Je n'aime pas les hot-dogs. = I don't like hotdogs.

(Note: always use "le/la/l'/les" in front of the nouns used with the verb "aimer" and "préférer")